

PARISH OF BAWDRIP

The Annual Parish Meeting for the Parish of Bawdrip was held on Tuesday, 1st April 2014 in the Parish Hall, Eastside Lane, Bawdrip. The meeting commenced at 7:30 pm.

Present: Parish Councillors: Mr. R Williams (Chairman), Mr R Culverhouse and Mrs. S Greaves; **Ward County Councillor** Mr. David Hall; Parish Clerk Graham Jarvis together with nine residents.

1. Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest.

Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillor Mrs. A Williams. No disclosures of interest were made.

2. Minutes of the 2013 Annual Parish Meeting

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 9th April 2013 were presented. The Minutes were confirmed as being a correct record and signed.

3. Report of the Parish Council Chairman

Roger Williams began his report by referring to many changes that had taken place over the past 12 months. In particular the Shaw's Orchard development was complete and most of the properties were occupied. The developer, Sommerfields, were complimented and the appearance of the site was well in-keeping with the rural settlement.

A number of Highway issues were outstanding including replacement of the damaged railings, changes to the road markings under the railway bridge and a persistent faulty streetlight. These matters would be followed-up with the Highway Authority but due to the flooding emergency on the Levels understandably other issues had a higher priority.

The Chairman mentioned that there had been a change of the Membership of the Parish Council and welcomed Richard Culverhouse. Mr Culverhouse and his fellow Parish Councillors were thanked for their contributions and enthusiasm shown during the year.

Mr Williams was pleased at the increased interest in Parish matters shown by residents which was evident by an improved attendance at Parish Council meetings.

In conclusion the Chairman expressed gratitude to the Parish Clerk for his labours and in particular to his sister, Sandra, who had provided a "taxi service" whilst he had been unable to drive for medical reasons.

4. County Councillors Report

David Hall began by stating that following the elections last May it had been a year of challenges.

The flooding on the Somerset Levels had cause immense devastation but communities had rallied round. He paid tribute to Council Officers and employees of other services and agencies who had helped in the emergency. Dredging of sections of the Parrett and Tone had started the previous day and 7 vehicles had been revealed when the water level of the King Sedgemoor Drain was reduced the previous week. A proposed 20 year plan for works costing £100 million had recently been published to provide short, medium and long term solutions to the problems highlighted by events of recent months.

The County Council had experienced another challenging year financially, which was likely to continue.

The proposed Hinkley Point C had moved a stage nearer with the granting of Planning Consent but the project was now under review by the EU. A decision on the project was expected later in the year.

The Devon and Somerset Superfast Broadband Project was well underway. Some areas were already receiving the benefit of the quicker connection and the Puriton exchange (which covers Bawdrip) was scheduled to be upgraded for the new service in July 2014.

5. District Councilor's Report - None

6. Public Discussion and Question Time - None

Meeting Closed at 7.58 pm